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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 7:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing in regard to the proposed Microsoft Settlement, as allowed under the Tunney Act, and in hopes that this opinion might be considered prior to the final acceptance of settlement terms as they stand at this time.

I am a professional engaged in the development of computer software, and have no strong complaint against Microsoft from a technical perspective. However, I have noticed a marked decline in the quality of computing in general, and particularly in the decreasing ability of my fellow citizens to employ technology creatively and constructively in their daily lives. This I attribute to the increasing stranglehold that Microsoft maintains on the computer desktop market.

I applaud the Findings of Fact, and agree with the courts that Microsoft's actions cannot be considered lawful and must be remedied. However, it is apparent to myself, and many in my profession, that the proposed settlement falls far short of addressing the problem. It must do more to reduce the barrier of entry for applications developers so that they might be able to develop competing software on the Microsoft platform, as well as on other computing platforms.

Please reconsider the settlement in favor of stronger penalties.

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